

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 RSR-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

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R 021209Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2274

INFO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 20962

1. EMBOFF, JULY 31, BRIEFED QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN AFFAIRS REMOVILLE ON RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF MALAGASY FORMIN RETSIRAKA, EMBOFF NOTED IN PARTICULAR BASIC ELEMENTS OF USG POLICY TOWARDS MADAGASCAR AND SPECIFIC AREAS OF MALAGASY INTEREST (RICE PROCUREMENT AND INCREASED TRAINING) WHICH RATSIRAKA HAD PUT TO US.

2. REMOVILLE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BRIEFING AND COMMENTED ON SITUATION IN MADAGASCAR AND CURRENT STATE OF FRANCO-MALAGASY POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS. FRENCH CONTINUE TO BELIEVE INTERNAL SITUATION IS EXTREMELY FRAGILE WITH CONTINUING DECLINE ON ECONOMIC FRONT AND DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN RAMANTSOA GOVERNMENT. REMOVILLE SPECIFICALLY WARNED AGAINST TAKING RATSIRAKA SERIOUSLY AS MAN WITH POLITICAL FUTURE IN MADAGASCAR. HIS CHANCES OF COMING TO POWER WERE "MINIMAL". ALTHOUGH INTELLIGENT AND ELOQUENT, HE DID NOT IN FRENCH VIEW HAVE REAL LEADERSHIP QUALITIES.

3. PREOCCUPYING SUBJECT FOR FRENCH AT MOMENT IS RIGHT OF FRENCH CITIZENS TO TRANSFER RESOURCES FROM MADAGASCAR. REMOVILLE SAID GOF UNDERSTOOD MALAGASY NEED FOR SHORT TERM
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CONTROLS ON REMITTANCES AND TRANSFERS TO PREVENT PANIC OUTFLOW

OF CAPITAL. BUT OVER LONGER TERM, IF CONTROLS MAINTAINED, THERE
WOULD BE NO INVESTMENT IN MADAGASCAR, AND INVESTMENT WAS
ESSENTIAL FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY. REMOVILLE
CONFIRMED WHAT FAC SOURCES HAD ALREADY TOLD US THAT GOF GOING
VERY SLOWLY WITH ANY AID TO MADAGASCAR AND APPARENTLY IS
WAITING TO SEE HOW POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION SHAKES DOWN
BEFORE MAKING ANY MAJOR NEW COMMITMENTS.
IRWIN

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